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Marshal's Minute-State Fire Marshal Matt Perez

I want to start by saying, thank you to all the first responders who continue to serve and protect your communities during the pandemic. This year has tested our resolve on a personal and professional level. Although all parts of our state have been affected, your dedication to our mission and your continued willingness to drop everything to run and fight this invisible enemy has minimized its impact on our communities.

Sadly, we have lost four of our brothers as a result of line of duty exposures to COVID-19. Thousands more have had to deal with the symptoms of this virus or have had to be sidelined due to exposures. Although we are starting to see a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel, we need to keep practicing the proper protocols; social distancing, wearing your mask, washing your hands, wearing your PPE. We are winning this battle, but it is far from over. Keep doing those things that help limit the spread of the virus in fire stations and in your communities. We are looked up to as leaders in our communities, so let's continue to set the example for others to follow.

The Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal has worked hard to ensure that all Illinois First Responders will have prioritized access to COVID vaccinations, and I am glad to see that firefighters are beginning to get their first shots. I would encourage you to contact your resource hospital or local health department to arrange vaccinations for your IDPH licensed firefighters/paramedics who are included in phase 1a and then for the remainder of the firefighters who will be in Phase 1b.

The IDPH issued a proclamation, which is available in this newsletter, to invoke emergency powers to modify the professional scope of proactive for Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). These emergency powers will allow for certain qualified EMT's to administer the COVID and Flu vaccines after receiving proper training. The hope is this will allow more people to be vaccinated in a quicker and more efficient manner.

We will get through this, one team one fight! The OSFM will continue to fight to supply you with the PPE, tools, equipment and training you need to safely perform your jobs.

Paramedic Robert Truevillian Chicago Fire Department

*Chicago Fire Department Paramedic Robert Truevillian
20 Years of service*

The OSFM sends our thoughts and prayers to the family and friends of fallen hero Robert Truevillian. We stand with our brothers and sisters at the Chicago Fire Department in support and thank you all for what you are doing to keep the citizens of Chicago and Illinois safe and healthy.

Robert Joined CFD as a single role Paramedic in December 2000 was promoted to Paramedic in Charge in 2011. Rest easy brother we will take it from here!



Mitch Kushner Fire Prevention and Life Safety Award



Left to Right: Fire Marshal Perez, Special Agent Kushner and CFD Commissioner Ford

Fire Marshal Perez presented OSFM Special Agent Mitch Kushner with the Fire Prevention and Life Safety Award on December 8th, 2020.

Mitch is the longest standing member of the OSFM Arson Division. He was one of the first canine handlers and serves as the canine coordinator.

Through his work on investigations, his outreach to departments, his willingness to conduct public K-9 demonstrations and his involvement with training new investigators, he has been an ambassador for the OSFM and a major reason for the growth of the division presence in the Chicago metro area.

He does all this while maintaining one of the largest caseloads in the division.

Congratulations Mitch! Thank you for all that you do for the OSFM!



Special Agent Kushner and his family



Left to Right: Special Agents Castronovo, Hacker, Kushner, Kuban & Ooms

Bob Wetzel Fire Prevention and Life Safety Award

Fire Marshal Perez presented Bob Wetzel with his Fire Prevention and Life Safety Award on December 11th, 2020.

Bob is the Fire Safety Compliance Manager in the OSFM Fire Prevention Division. His knowledge, background and education make him perfectly suited for his role. He always goes above and beyond to help answer customer questions and working with agency employees no matter what task he is assigned. He has a gift for dealing with people and resolving issues. His attention to detail and expertise knowledge of why a specific rule makes him an invaluable asset to the OSFM. Bob has reached out to many of our working partners in the Sprinkler, Fire Equipment and Pyrotechnic industry and developed a great working relationship.

Congratulations Bob! Thanks for all that you do to help further the mission of the OSFM.

Employee Spotlight



Thomas Manis Fire Prevention Inspector

Where are you originally from? I grew up in Makanda, which is just south of Carbondale.

Tell us about your family? My significant other, Nicole, is an Executive Director for a couple Assisted Living Facilities in Southern Illinois. So, with COVID, it's been extremely stressful for her and her staff. I just try to be there for her when she needs a shoulder.

Favorite food(s)? Got to be Lasagna.

Hobbies? Well I'm a huge baseball fan, GO CARDINALS!!! Also, I'm a Jeoper, so got to love going on Jeep runs in the summertime. The one thing I do the most, even for my age, is online gaming. It is such a stress reliever, most of the time.

What's your favorite movie or book? I'm a huge movie buff, Horror is my favorite genre. There are so many movies I watch over and over, but it would have to be The Goonies or Back to the Future. We all have it in our DNA to be adventurers. Also, Smokey and the Bandit, Christmas Vacation, and Abbott and Costello. Any 80's TV shows, MASH, Night Court...I grew up in the late 70's and lived through the 80's, can you tell.

When you get in the car what type of music will be coming out of your speakers? Funny thing is, I listen to all styles of music. I could go from the 80's A-HA with Take on Me, to Dr. Dre, and then over to Garth Brooks all in the same playlist.

What did you want to be when you were a kid? I was born and raised in the fire service. My father and uncle both worked for the Carbondale Fire Department, so naturally I wanted to be a Police Officer. Eventually joined a Volunteer Fire Department when I was 19, and the rest is history. The Fire Service has been wonderful to our family, couldn't imagine doing anything else.

What's your favorite part of the job? Meeting so many different people from all walks of life. Everyone always has a story to tell. Since I was born and raised in Southern Illinois, I get to travel all of it, look at the sites of the Shawnee Forest, visit towns I haven't been to in so long and see how the world around us changes, but never stops.

What's something unique about you? I'm a little bit of a perfectionist. It must be right the first time.

Where is your favorite place to vacation? Love the Smokey mountains of Tennessee.

Where is your bucket list destination? I was fortunate enough to get to see and travel to so many places growing up, that my list is very short. The one thing I would love to do is go on an Alaskan Cruise though. Those are sites you normally wouldn't see traveling elsewhere.

Cathy Stashak Joins NFPA Standards Council in 2021

The OSFM is proud to announce that our very own Cathy Stashak has been appointed to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standards Council for 2021! Cathy's extensive knowledge, judgment and ability to work with members from the industry make her a great fit for this position. Congratulations Cathy!

The NFPA Standards Council, appointed by the NFPA Board of Directors, is comprised of 13 members. The responsibilities of the Council include overseeing NFPA standards development activities, ensuring compliance with the NFPA Regulations and Rules, appointing members to NFPA Technical and Correlating Committees, and serving as the appeals body over matters related to standards development. The Council conducts meetings three times annually, as well as serving as Presiding Officers for the yearly NFPA Technical Meeting.

"I am very honored to represent OSFM on this council. OSFM is an amazing agency; we do so much for Illinois in so many ways and I am proud to be a member of the OSFM team," says Cathy Stashak



IDPH Vaccine Proclamation for EMS Personnel

12/14/2020

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**PROCLAMATION TO INVOKE EMERGENCY POWERS TO MODIFY
THE PROFESSIONAL SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR EMERGENCY
MEDICAL TECHNICIANS**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 7 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act (20 ILCS 3305/7), the Governor of the State of Illinois has issued a proclamation declaring that a public health emergency related to the SARS-CoV-2 virus exists within the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Department of Public Health Powers and Duties Law (20 ILCS 2310/2310-625), upon the proclamation by the Governor, the Director of the Illinois Department of Public Health (Department) has emergency powers which shall be exercised in coordination with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) and the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR); and

WHEREAS, the Director's emergency powers pursuant to the Department of Public Health Powers and Duties Law (20 ILCS 2310/2310-625) include the power to modify the scope of practice restrictions under the Emergency Medical Services Systems Act (EMS Act) (210 ILCS 50/et seq.) for any persons who are licensed under that Act (20 ILCS 2310/2310-625 (a)(2); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the EMS Act, the Department has the authority to license and regulate Emergency Medical Technicians, including the following categories of Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians and Emergency Medical Technicians - Intermediate; and

WHEREAS, the Department has coordinated the exercise of the Director's emergency powers related to the expansion of scope of practice for emergency medical technicians with IEMA and IDFPR; and

WHEREAS, the administration of both influenza vaccines and COVID-19 vaccines (collectively "vaccines") is necessary to combat or prevent the spread of the influenza virus and the COVID-19 virus to protect the public health;

PROTECTING HEALTH, IMPROVING LIVES*Nationally Accredited by PHAB*

IDPH Vaccine Proclamation for EMS Personnel

THEREFORE, I, Ngozi O. Ezike, M.D., hereby order the following:

Section 3.55 of the EMS Act, and any regulations adopted pursuant thereto, are hereby modified to authorize individuals licensed or certified under the EMS Act as an Emergency Medical Technician – Intermediate or as an Advanced Emergency Medical Technician to administer influenza vaccines and COVID-19 vaccines to persons over the age of six (6) years old, after successful completion of a Department approved vaccine training program, and as authorized by the EMS Medical Director for the jurisdiction where vaccinations are being administered.

Vaccinations administered by Emergency Medical Technician-Intermediates or Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians must be under the authorization of the EMS Medical Director. Emergency Medical Technician-Intermediates and Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians are prohibited from administering vaccines pursuant to this modified scope of practice except where they are: (1) acting under the authorization of the EMS Medical Director for their respective jurisdiction; (2) responding to a request for assistance from a certified local health department or hospital and; (3) working under the direction of IEMA and IDPH, an IEMA-certified emergency services and disaster agency, or a certified local health department that is enrolled in IDPH's immunization program and operating pursuant to a vaccine provider agreement with IDPH.

PROCLAIMED AND ISSUED BY:



Ngozi O. Ezike, M.D.,
Director, Illinois
Department of Public
Health

2020 Keep the Wreath Red Campaign



The OSFM once again this year participated in a fire prevention campaign called Keep the Wreath Red. This campaign is aimed at raising awareness about fire safety during the holiday season and began in Naperville, Illinois in 1954. The goal is for zero fire related fatalities during the holiday season (December 1st through January 2nd). According to the NFPA, December is the peak month for candle fires. Wreaths are lit with red lights and then a bulb is changed to white when there is a fire related fatality.

Wreaths were placed outside of the OSFM's Springfield Headquarters and this year, a wreath was added at the Quinn Fire Academy in Chicago. Unfortunately, during the 2020 holiday season, there were 17 fire related fatalities in Illinois. This is an increase of two from the 2019 holiday season. The white bulbs represent a family member, friend or neighbor. A loss is always difficult anytime but made even more difficult when it occurs during the holiday season. Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone who experienced a loss this year.



OSFM/Chicago Fire Department Holiday Decoration Safety Event



The OSFM joined the Chicago Fire Department to promote and raise awareness about holiday decoration fire safety. The event was held at the Quinn Fire Academy with a live burn demonstration that was conducted for the media. A space heater was plugged into an extension cord, creating a short that igniting a fire in the living room, which then spread to the tree and consequently the fire grew out of control. This demonstration shows how important it is to make sure your tree is properly watered, and to make sure you follow proper fire safety measures during the holiday season.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), more than two of every five home decoration fires occur due to decorations being placed too close to a heat source. More than one-third of home decoration fires are started by candles. The NFPA also reports that US fire departments responded to an average of 780 home structure fires per year that began with decorations between 2013-2017.

More than half of home decoration fires in December are started by candles. Candle fires peak in December followed closely by January. The top three days for home candle fires are Christmas Day, New Year's Day and New Year's Eve. Before you head to bed or out for the evening, extinguish all lit candles.

Unfortunately, between December 1st, 2020 and January 2nd, 2021 17 Illinoisans lost their lives due to a fire related incident.




Check Recall List for Holiday Gifts

Santa always checks his list twice, but he has such a big job he may have missed a recalled toy or present he left under the tree on Christmas. It's important to visit <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls> to see if any of your presents ended up on the recall list.

Toys and other items can malfunction and lead to an increased fire risk in your home. Let's start 2021 with fire safety in mind and make it a top priority! If you find that one of your item's lands on this list, stop using it immediately and follow the instructions from the manufacturer.



January is Fire Fighter Cancer Awareness Month

**JANUARY IS
Fire Fighter Cancer Awareness Month**

12 Actions to Protect Yourself Against Occupational Cancer

1. Use SCBA from initial attack to finish of overhaul.
2. Do preliminary exposure reduction (field/gross decon) of PPE to remove as much soot and particulates as possible.
3. Use wet naps or baby wipes to remove as much soot as possible from head, neck, jaw, throat, underarms and hands immediately and while still on the scene.
4. Change your clothes and wash them immediately after a fire.
5. Shower thoroughly after a fire (try to shower with an hour after exposure.)
6. Clean your PPE, gloves, hood and helmet immediately after every fire.
7. Never take contaminated clothes or PPE home or store it in your vehicle.
8. Keep bunker gear out of living and sleeping quarters.
9. Decon fire apparatus interior after fires.
10. Stop using tobacco products.
11. Use sunscreen or sunblock.
12. **Get annual medical examinations. Early detection and early treatment are essential to increasing survival.**

Firefighter-occupational cancer is the leading cause of line-of-duty deaths in the fire service. In 2019, more than 75% of the names of firefighters added to the IAFF Fallen Firefighter Memorial Wall of Honor in Colorado Springs, Colorado, were of members who died from occupational cancer.

In partnership with the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), January has been designated as Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month to provide firefighters the necessary tools and guidance to develop life-saving protocols for cancer prevention and to support those with a cancer diagnosis within their departments.

The State of Illinois Preliminary Exposure Reduction Training project is still available. This training is key to helping reduce the risk of exposure to firefighters from harmful carcinogens present due to today's construction materials. In 2020, 1,690 kits were distributed to 500 departments in Illinois. The OSFM encourages departments to complete the training and join the growing list of departments who have received their buckets.

Visit the website below for more information and to receive your DECON buckets.

<https://fsi.illinois.edu/decon/#!/index>



IFSI Minute

IFSI MINUTES

Happy New Year from the Illinois Fire Service Institute!



FY2020 Annual Report

The FY20 Annual Report: *On Our Watch* is now available online. This document captures key data points for the Institute to include course deliveries, students and counties served, program reach, unit accomplishments, financials, and affiliate support. The document can be viewed at fsi.illinois.edu.

If you would like a printed copy of the Annual Report for your records, contact Jill Sauer - jills@illinois.edu.

ESSENTIAL SKILLS TRAINING IN EARLY 2021

IFSI will offer multiple ways to achieve basic firefighter certification early in the new year:

BASIC OPERATIONS FIREFIGHTER ONLINE – MODULES A, B, AND C

The Basic Operations Firefighter Online program will start January 18. This online program is delivered in modular format and meets the cognitive requirements for firefighter basic certification. The course covers twenty-three subject areas including Hazardous Materials and Technical Rescue Awareness. Modules A, B, and C will be offered consecutively in early 2021.

Practical requirements for the program are the responsibility of the student, under the direction of their fire department. A student practical package will be provided to guide and document student performance. The final exam will be administered through OSFM.

BASIC OPERATIONS FIREFIGHTER/NFPA FIREFIGHTER I BLENDED

The next delivery of the IFSI Basic Operations Firefighter/NFPA Firefighter I Blended (BOF) program begins January 9, 2021. This unique, 18-week training program balances instructor supported online learning with weekend, hands-on practicals. The next offering will be hosted at four regional training locations: Sherman, Streator, Cherry Valley, and Swansea. BOF is a **no cost** program for Illinois students and departments. Training is funded by the OSFM through an appropriation of agency funds.

BASIC FIREFIGHTER/NFPA FIREFIGHTER I ACADEMY

The Spring 2021 Basic Firefighter/NFPA Firefighter I Academy will begin in March. This seven-week, resident program focused on an intense hands-on approach to firefighting, which promotes both skill competency and an understanding of the fireground. We are expecting another solid enrollment this spring.

For complete information on the above training program options, visit fsi.illinois.edu.

WINTER FIRE SCHOOL

IFSI will host the 26th Annual Winter Fire School January 23-24 in Champaign. With great consideration for the health and safety of our students, instructors and staff, IFSI has modified this annual event by reducing the number of course offerings and limiting class sizes. The 2021 program will offer 6 unique course options. As with all IFSI training deliveries, extensive COVID-19 risk mitigation protocols will be in place throughout the event. Limited seats are still available in select courses. And, funded hotel accommodations are available to attendees – thanks to the financial support from OSFM.

We are ready for the New Year and are looking forward to fulfilling our Mission so you can fulfill yours.

OSFM Small Equipment Grant Application Deadline

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) application period is open for the Small Equipment Grant Program and the deadline is approaching quickly! All interested departments should send an application to OSFM no later than January 29, 2021. OSFM will award \$3.3 million to eligible fire departments and ambulance services during this application period.

The Small Equipment Grant Program was established to provide grants of up to \$26,000 for the purchase of small firefighting and ambulance equipment. A total of \$3.5 million was awarded to 154 fire departments/districts and EMS providers in June. This program is an innovative approach to a problem that has long caused difficulties for the fire departments and not-for-profit ambulance services in Illinois, particularly those that have hardships in generating the necessary revenue for small equipment. The purpose is to allow eligible applicants the opportunity to purchase small tools and equipment that they may otherwise not be able to purchase. In addition to firefighting personal protective equipment (PPE), applicants can also apply for personal infection control items such as masks, gowns and gloves this application cycle. Most Illinois fire departments, fire protection districts and township fire departments are eligible to apply. In addition, stand-alone, not-for-profit ambulance service providers are eligible to apply.

Fire department, fire protection districts and township fire department applicants are required to have participated in the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) for a minimum of two years prior to applying. Due to NFIRS undergoing updates at this time, the OSFM will require departments to be current through June 2020 for this grant period.

Please fill out the Small Equipment Grant Program application electronically. There are drop down menus available in the electronic application that can help you to complete the application.

The OSFM Produced a video to help departments/districts answer questions when filling out the application: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G08gz3zO1iA&feature=youtu.be>

Additional information including the application can be found here: <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/lam/FireDepartment/Grants-and-Loans/Pages/default.aspx?fbclid=IwAR2IKJADTq30x027VLZUazoBZVtynRWD91meoygszVGPng61et5NSFhbIXc>



Membrane Structures and Tents Used for Outdoor Dining



OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Membrane Structures and Tents Used for Outdoor Dining¹

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) reminds local authorities, owners, and operators of membrane outdoor dining structures that these structures present special hazards that make them vulnerable to fire and fire injuries if applicable codes are not followed. By their nature, tents and membrane structures are constructed of materials that do not resist ignition or the spread of flame unless properly treated to do so. Additionally, because of their temporary nature, owners often believe that tents and membrane structures are exempt from fire sprinkler protection or fire detection system requirements. This document reviews the fire safety regulations found in the rules adopted by Illinois, specific to the common membrane structures and tents used for outdoor dining.

The rules of OSFM serve as the minimum requirements in non-home rule municipalities. If the local fire and/or building departments has more stringent requirements these more stringent requirements must be followed. Tents and membrane structures found in home-rule municipalities that have not adopted OSFM's Life Safety Code must comply with that municipality's requirements and OSFM's Life Safety Code does not apply.

NFPA 101, *Life Safety Code* (LSC) provides requirements for membrane structures and tents. A membrane structure is defined as a building or portion of a building incorporating an air-inflated, air-supported, tensioned-membrane structure; a membrane roof; or a membrane-covered rigid frame to protect habitable or usable space. Even though it may appear that a tent would also be considered a membrane structure, the LSC treats tents independently. The major difference between tents and membrane structures is that tents are only permitted to be used on a temporary basis. The LSC defines a temporary structures as a building or structure that is permitted to remain in place for a period of 180 days or less in any consecutive 12-month period.

Figure 1 is a photograph of the Denver International Airport. Denver International Airport is a good example of a tensioned-membrane structure. Figure 2 provides an example of an air-supported or air-inflated structure



(Figure 1)



(Figure 2)

¹ This document is provided as a result of outdoor dining requirements triggered by Restore Illinois COVID-19 phasing plan. This phasing plan was implemented after January 1, 2020, therefore OSFM is using requirements for new occupancies.

Membrane Structures and Tents Used for Outdoor Dining

Examples of common structures used for outdoor dining are tents and membrane-covered rigid framed (MCRF) structures. Figures 3 and 4 provide examples of tents that are used for outdoor dining.



Figure 3



Figure 4

Figures 5 and 6 provide examples of MCRF structures that are used for outdoor dining. These structures are sometimes called “dining igloos.”



Figure 5



Figure 6

Illinois Code Requirements

Tents

A tent is a temporary structure, the covering of which is made of pliable material that achieves its support by mechanical means such as beams, columns, poles, or arches, or by rope or cables, or both. **It is important to remember that tents are to be used only as a temporary structure. This means tents can be in operation for 180 days or less.**

In addition to the requirements found in Chapter 11 for tents, the chapter related to the occupancy use within the tent must also be followed. Therefore, if a tent is used for dining and can hold more than 50 patrons, this tent must follow the requirements found in Chapter 12 for new assembly occupancies.

Other requirements related to tents are as follows:

- All tent fabric shall be flame resistant in accordance with LSC Section 10.3.1 with some additional requirements related to alternative methods for proving flame resistance.
- Fire extinguishers need to be provided pursuant to NFPA 10, *Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers* (2007).
- Smoking is prohibited and posting is required, except when permitted by the AHJ.

Membrane Structures and Tents Used for Outdoor Dining

- The ground enclosed by any temporary membrane structure, and the ground for at least 10 ft outside of a tent, must be cleared of all flammable or combustible material or vegetation.
- This work must be accomplished prior to the erection of such a structure(s).
- The premises shall be kept free from such flammable or combustible materials during the period for which the premises are used by the public.
- The placement of tents relative to other structures shall be at the discretion of the AHJ, with consideration given to occupancy, use, opening, exposure, and other similar factors.
- There shall be a minimum of 10 ft between stake lines.
- Adjacent tents shall be spaced to provide an area to be used as a means of emergency egress. Where 10 ft between stake lines does not meet the requirements for means of egress, the distance necessary for means of egress shall govern.

Exception No. 1: Tents not occupied by the public and not used for the storage of combustible material shall be permitted to be less than 10 ft from other structures where the AHJ approves.

Exception No. 2: Tents not exceeding 1,200 ft² in area and located in fairgrounds or similar open spaces, shall not be required to be separated from each other, provided that safety precautions meet the AHJ.

- Fired heaters and electric heaters must comply with the following:
 - Only labeled heating devices shall be used.
 - Fuel-fired heaters and electric heaters and their installation shall be approved by the AHJ.
 - LPG containers shall be installed not less than 5 ft from any tent and shall be in accordance with the provisions of NFPA 58, *Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code*.
 - Tanks shall be secured in the upright position and protected from vehicular traffic.
 - Electrical heaters shall be connected to electricity by electric cable that is suitable for outside use and is of sufficient size to handle the electrical load.

Tents used as assembly occupancies are subject to other requirements of the LSC's assembly occupancy chapter. These include, but are not limited to:

- Fire protection requirements including but not limited to sprinklers and fire alarm systems.
- Provision of an adequate number of means of egress.
- Provision of panic hardware on exit doors.
- Restrictions on dead end pathways.
- Aisle and aisle accessways must comply with requirements of Chapter 12.
- The use of open flame devices or pyrotechnic special effects must comply with Illinois regulations found in Title 41 Ill. Adm. Code 235.
- Furnishings and decorations (including all draperies and curtains) are required to be flame resistant as proven in a test in accordance with NFPA 701 *Standard Methods of Fire Tests for Flame Propagation of Textiles and Films*.
- In accordance with both LSC requirements and Illinois' Furniture Fire Safety Act (Title 41 Ill. Adm. Code 300), any upholstered furniture in the occupancy must comply with testing and labeling requirements.

Membrane Structures and Tents Used for Outdoor Dining

Membrane Structures

OSFM has defined a “dining igloo” as a membrane-covered rigid framed structure (MCRF). The requirements for MCRF are found under the requirements for permanent or temporary membrane structures in LSC Chapter 11. These are permitted to be permanent structures and therefore may be used for more than 180 days. In addition to the requirements found in Chapter 11 for membrane structures, the occupancy chapter related to the use within the tent must be followed. Therefore, if an MCRF is used for dining and can hold more than 50 patrons, the MCRF must follow the requirements found in Chapter 12 for new assembly occupancies.

Requirements related to MDRF are as follows:

- The flame spread index of all membrane materials exposed within the structure shall be Class A. This means the material needs to have a flame spread of 0–25 with a smoke development of 450.
- All fabric shall meet the flame propagation performance criteria contained in Test Method 2 of NFPA 701, *Standard Methods of Fire Tests for Flame Propagation of Textiles and Films*. (See LSC Section 11.9.1.6 for alternative approaches to testing membrane materials.)
- Fired heaters and electric heaters must comply with the following:
 - Only labeled heating devices shall be used.
 - Fuel-fired heaters and electric heaters and their installation shall be approved by the AHJ.
 - LPG containers shall be installed not less than 5 ft from any MCRF structure and shall be in accordance with the provisions of NFPA 58, *Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code*.
 - Tanks shall be secured in the upright position and protected from vehicular traffic.
 - Only labeled electrical heaters shall be used and their placement, and installation shall be approved by the AHJ.
 - Electrical heaters shall be connected to electricity by electric cable that is suitable for outside use and is of sufficient size to handle the electrical load.

MCRF structures used as assembly occupancies are subject to other requirements of the LSC’s assembly occupancy chapter. These include, but are not limited to:

- Fire protection requirements including but not limited to sprinklers and fire alarm systems.
- Provision of an adequate number and width of means of egress to accommodate occupant loads within the building.
- Provision of panic hardware on exit doors.
- Restrictions on dead end pathways.
- The use of open flame devices or pyrotechnic special effects must comply with Illinois regulations found in Title 41 Ill. Adm. Code 235.
- Furnishings and decorations (including all draperies and curtains) are required to be flame resistant as proven in a test in accordance with NFPA 701 *Standard Methods of Fire Tests for Flame Propagation of Textiles and Films*.

Membrane Structures and Tents Used for Outdoor Dining

- In accordance with both LSC requirements and Illinois' Furniture Fire Safety Act (Title 41 Ill. Adm. Code 300), any upholstered furniture in the occupancy must comply with testing and labeling requirements.

For further information regarding membrane structures and tents used for outdoor dining, contact the OSFM's Technical Services Division at SFM.Techservices@illinois.gov.

The Technical Services Division of the Office of the State Fire Marshal serves to support other operating divisions within the agency as well as the fire service and regulated public with technical and engineering expertise. The division is managed by an Illinois registered professional fire protection engineer (P.E.) and staffed by a variety of personnel including engineers and fire protection specialists.

Personnel in this division perform plan reviews, recommend code interpretations, represent the agency on state and national code committees and task forces, assist other divisions of the OSFM with continuing education of inspection personnel and make presentations to the public and the regulated community relative to technical issues. Technical Services also provides expert advice in the agency's rulemaking processes for a variety of subjects including: Life Safety Code enforcement, aboveground tank storage regulation, LP-Gas regulation and myriad other fire prevention and petroleum and chemical safety related issues. The work of the Technical Services Division is conducted from the OSFM's Chicago office.

Specific work includes:

- *Reviewing plans and applications submitted for installation or modification of:*
- *Reviewing architectural drawings of new construction, renovations and additions for compliance with state codes. This includes submittals relative to:*
- *Analysis of Fire Safety Evaluation Systems (FSSES) which offer owners an objective method for proving equivalent life safety in structures that may not be able to conform to the prescriptive requirements of the Life Safety Code.*
- *Analysis of submitted "Fire Safety Plans" for Illinois' correctional facilities.*
- *Preparing continuing education programs and support materials for the agency's field inspection workforce to familiarize them with applicable codes and changing technologies in an effort to ensure consistency in code enforcement across the state.*
- *Assisting OSFM operating divisions with the development of "Information Reports" and/or web page content to clarify technical and code requirements. This includes development of technical content for "Frequently Asked Questions" documents for the agency website.*
- *Representing the agency on state and national task forces and code development committees relative to fire prevention, code enforcement and petroleum & chemical safety issues. This includes representation on National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and International Code Council (ICC) committees.*
- *Providing expert testimony at appeal hearings and court cases on behalf of the Office of the State Fire Marshal. To learn more about Tech Services visit: www.sfm.illinois.gov*

Heating Safety

Heating Safety

There is something about the winter months and curling up with a good book by the fireplace. But did you know that heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths? With a few simple safety tips and precautions you can prevent most heating fires from happening.

BE WARM AND SAFE THIS WINTER!

- Keep anything that can burn at least three-feet (one metre) away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot (one metre) "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month.



Heating Equipment Smarts

Install wood burning stoves following manufacturer's instructions or have a professional do the installation. All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

Install and maintain CO alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning. If you **smell** gas in your gas heater, do not light the appliance. Leave the home immediately and call your local fire department or gas company.



FACT

Half of home heating fires are reported during the months of **December, January, and February.**




**NATIONAL FIRE
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**
The leading information and knowledge resource
on fire, electrical and related hazards



nfpa.org/education ©NFPA 2017

COVID Safety

 **State of Illinois**
Illinois Department of Public Health

COVID-19 Know the Difference

Is it a COLD or FLU or COVID-19?

Signs and Symptoms	COLD	FLU	COVID-19
Symptom onset	Gradual	2 days	2-14 days
Body Aches	Slight	Common	Common
Cough	Common	Common	Common
Diarrhea	Rare	Sometimes	Sometimes
Fatigue/Weakness	Sometimes	Common	Common
Fever/Chills/Shaking	Rare	Common	Common
Loss of Taste or Smell	Never	Never	Sometimes
Shortness of breath or Difficulty Breathing	Rare	Common	Common
Stuffy nose	Common	Common	Rare
Sneezing	Common	Sometimes	Rare
Sore throat	Common	Common	Common
Headache	Rare	Common	Common



Questions about COVID-19?
Call 1-800-889-3931 or email dph.sick@illinois.gov
Illinois Department of Public Health - www.dph.illinois.gov

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Upcoming CRR Week 2020



Community Risk Reduction (CRR) Week 2021 is January 18th through the 24th. The goal of CRR is to reduce the occurrence and impact of emergency events for both community members and emergency responders through deliberate action in the areas of the five E's of Education, Engineering, Enforcement, Emergency response, and Economic incentive. Most fire-related and many medical calls for service are preventable, with the five E's performed as part of an integrated Community Risk Reduction program. CRR is a data-informed process to identify and prioritize local risks, followed by integrated and strategic investment of resources to reduce their occurrence and impact.

According to crrweek.org, every 24 seconds, a fire department in the United States responds to a fire somewhere in the nation. In 2018, 74% percent of all fire deaths occurred in the home and home fires accounted for the 11,200 civilian injuries. An estimated \$25.6 billion in property damage occurred as a result of fire in 2018. The fire service responds to a growing number of medical calls for service, surpassing 80% of total call volume in some jurisdictions.

The week also coincides with Martin Luther King Day and is nationally recognized as a National Day of Service and an opportunity for communities to reduce the risk in their community through a series of educational and other programs.

The OSFM encourages all fire department/districts to work with community partners to come up with a CRR plan for their area. These plans can help reduce the risk for community members and create a partnership between departments and community leaders. Take a few minutes during CRR week and provide your community members with some fire prevention tips and other safety tips that can help reduce risks in your community.

Kudos/OSFM Retirements

*Gwen Saddler
Retired after 41.5 Years at OSFM
Photo taken in 2019*



*Kevin Smith
Retired after 20.5 Years at OSFM*



*Mindy Reynolds
Retired after 2 Years at OSFM*



While traveling from Paris to Mattoon on Rt 16 this afternoon Fire Inspector Nichols came upon an accident. The accident looked to have just occurred as there were no Police, Fire or EMS on scene. He pulled over and checked on both drivers and made sure vehicles were both off and secure. He also made a phone call to dispatch to ensure an ambulance had been called. He waited on the scene until an ambulance arrived to ensure everyone was safe and alert.

*Tony Nichols
Fire Inspector*

Kid's Corner

